

Alston &amp; Bird



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

MAR 9 2004

 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
 United States Patent and Trademark Office  
 Address COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
 P.O. Box 1-150  
 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
 www.uspto.gov

Received By

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING OR 371(c) DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO./TITLE
10/720,023	11/19/2003	Thomas P. Branch	45011-271086

CONFIRMATION NO. 3205

 00826  
 ALSTON & BIRD LLP  
 BANK OF AMERICA PLAZA  
 101 SOUTH TRYON STREET, SUITE 4000  
 CHARLOTTE, NC 28280-4000

\*OC000000012167945\*

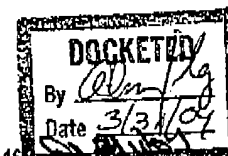
Date Mailed: 03/23/2004

## RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR CORRECTED FILING RECEIPT

### Domestic Continuity and Foreign Priority

In response to your request for a corrected Filing Receipt, the Office is unable to comply with the request because:

- ☐ The priority or continuity claim has not been entered because it was not filed during the required time period. Applicant may wish to consider filing a petition to accept an unintentionally delayed claim for priority. See 37 CFR 1.55 or 1.78.
- ☐ Continuity claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 120 cannot be added to the Filing Receipt without the applicant supplying the relationship (continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part) in an Application Data Sheet or amendment to the first page of the specification.
- ☐ A claim for priority cannot be made based on an application filed after the application making the claim.
- ☐ Domestic benefit and foreign priority claims will not be captured in a provisional application. A provisional application is not entitled to a right of priority or to the benefit of an earlier filing date of any other application. See 35 U.S.C. § 111(b)(7) and 37 CFR 1.53(c)(4).
- ☐ A domestic continuity claim cannot be made to a foreign application and the filing receipt will only list the foreign country, application number, and filing date.
- ☐ Foreign priority will appear on the Filing Receipt in the following order: **Country. Application number, Filing date.**
- ☐ This application is the result of a conversion from a provisional application. Priority based on such application cannot be made since it no longer exists as a provisional application.



- ☒ The application(s) to which priority is claimed were filed over a year prior to the filing date of this application. Therefore, the referenced application(s) cannot be claimed as domestic or foreign priority.
- ☐ To change the benefit claim of a U.S. prior-filed application, applicant must amend the first sentence of the specification (if the benefit claim is referenced in the specification), or provide a supplemental application data sheet (ADS) (if the benefit claim was submitted in an ADS), with the desired benefit claim. Note that once a benefit claim is deleted, applicant will not be able to claim such prior-filed application again, if the above-identified application was filed on or after November 29, 2000.
- ☐ To change a foreign priority claim, applicant must submit a supplemental oath or declaration (if the priority claim is referenced in the oath or declaration), or a supplemental application data sheet (ADS) (if the priority claim was submitted in an ADS), with the desired priority claim. If a supplemental ADS is submitted, any deletions should be shown with strikeouts. Note that once a priority claim is deleted, applicant will not be able to claim such foreign application again, if the above-identified application was filed on or after November 29, 2000.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Customer Service Center  
Initial Patent Examination Division (703) 308-1202

PART 1 - ATTORNEY/APPLICANT COPY